

**WEST POINT FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT**



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

November 8th, 2023

Vice Chair Steve Schoenthaler called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M. at the West Point Fire Station, 195 Spink Rd West Point, Ca 95255

PRESENT: Vice Chair Steve Schoenthaler, Director John Hesketh, Director/Association Liaison/Treasurer Tim Adams, Chief Terry Miller, Assistant Chief Michael Downs, C.E.R.T. Representative Sam Hernandez, Chaplain Carolyn Oliver, and Assistant Clerk Bronwynne Wolf

ABSENT: Chair Julia Marsili, Chaplain Bruce Forrest, and Payroll Clerk Jill Jenkins

Public Comment: Local Wilseyville resident, Sheryl Mckeown Harper, shared her recent discovery of the severe underfunding of our county fire departments. She stated that in her research, the county board of supervisors took \$212,000 of the TOT tax and started a Park and Recreation commission instead of funding our local fire departments. They have also designated \$197,000. (Funding source yet unknown) to a consultant. Who will be visiting our communities to talk to us about what we would like to see in our community parks as they create them. The county is hoping the public participates. This consultant will also be investigating adventure tourism opportunities. That is \$409,000 that could go to support our local firefighters. If they are lucky; they currently make minimum wage, no benefits, no retirement. Their only funding is property taxes, TOT, 10% of the .5% Sales tax increase from 1993. They receive no money for wages from the county General fund/budget. She continues to research and asks questions to provide information to the public so they can make their own informed decisions. She feels the community needs to back our local fire departments.

Announcements from West Point Fire Protection District Partners:

Partner reports

- a. Sam Hernandez, the department's technical support specialist, reported that he has added a link on the home page of the westpointfire.org website labeled 'Smoke Check', where you can view alert wildfire cameras, fire and smoke map, California Alert cameras as well as PG&E's wildfire detection satellite map.
- b. Audit Report Presentation - Cathy Castillo's Office
- c. California Special District Association (CSDA) Update - Dane Wadle – Technical errors arose, will reschedule to a later date.

Consent Agenda—The following items were motioned for approval by Vice Chair Schoenthaler, seconded by Director Hesketh and passed with 3 votes.

Ayes: Vice Chair Schoenthaler, Director Hesketh, Director Adams

Absent: Chair Marsili

- a. Approve meeting minutes from October 11th, 2023
- b. Acknowledge receipt and review of financial statements for October 2023



- c. Approve monthly expenses for October 2023

Reports, Director, and Staff Comments:

Fire Chief Report/Announcements: Chief Miller stated Engine 316 is back in service at the station. Engine 313 has thrown some codes that need to be addressed, so was dropped off at the International mechanic in Stockton for repair.

A new employee interview was recently conducted to ensure adequate staffing. One of the goals of the department is to have an E.M.T. on each shift along with an officer. Calls this month have risen a little bit from about 30 calls last month to around 40 calls this month.

Board member announcements: none to report.

Adjournment to Closed Session - Public Employee Evaluation—Government Code Section 54957

Reconvene in Open Session – no action to report.

Adjournment: 7:22 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bronwynne Wolf – Assistant Clerk